



NAEVR
National Alliance For
Eye And Vision Research

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Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the NEI/Decade of Vision 2010-2020

May 13, 2010

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.,
Director, National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 126, 1 Center Drive,
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-0148


Dear Dr. Collins:

Congratulations on your successful testimony on April 28 and May 5 before the House and Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittees, respectively. The vision community appreciates that you highlighted "Corey's story" and the National Eye Institute (NEI)-funded breakthrough research on human gene therapy for Leber Congenital Amaurosis.

So you know, the vision community was represented yesterday afternoon at the House's Citizen Witness hearing. Neil Bressler, M.D. (Wilmer Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins), representing the American Academy of Ophthalmology, testified in support of FY2011 NIH funding at \$35 billion, echoing NAEVR's written testimony submitted previously to the Subcommittee. I attach a copy of his testimony.

Since Dr. Bressler also chairs NEI's Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research (DRCR) Network, he reported on the recent results from the Network's comparative effectiveness trial for treatment of diabetic edema, noting significant visual improvement in patients treated with a laser and injections of FDA-approved Lucentis versus laser alone. As Dr. Bressler noted, this represents a significant improvement on the standard of practice that has been around for 25 years.

Sincerely,


James F. Jorkasky, NAEVR Executive Director
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cc: Dr. Hudson, Dr. Patterson, Mr. White, Ms. Houser, Mr. Burklow

Attachment: May 12, 2010, Dr. Neil Bressler Citizen Witness Testimony